

Message Text

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53

ACTION SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OES-03 ABF-01 FS-01 L-02 /018 W

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R 121000Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8453

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PASS SMITHSONIAN FOR HIGGINS AND ROBINSON

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, TBIO, TS

SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP--MMSC BACCAR LEGAL CASE

1. MMSC DIRECTOR MENEZ HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY TO
TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SMI:

QUOTE: BEN MUSTAPHA HAS URGED MRS. BACCAR TO WITH-
DRAW HER SUIT AGAINST MMSC. HE FEELS THAT THERE
IS POSSIBILITY SHE WILL WITHDRAW AND HE ASSURES US
THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO PUT PRESSURE ON HER. AFTER
HEATED DISCUSSION WITH MME. KTARI, DR. AZOUZ DECIDED
HE WILL GIVE US STATEMENT REGARDING DECISION ON NON-
RENEWAL OF BACCAR CONTRACT IF STILL NEEDED. ALL
THE ABOVE INFORMATION CAME TO ME FROM LAJMI OF MMSC.
BEN HAMIDA PROMISES TO FINISH TRANSLATIONS WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 11. NO WORD FROM LAWYER REGARDING MMSC CASE.
SIGNED MENEZ UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY FEELS THAT STATEMENT FROM
AZOUZ ON NON-RENEWAL OF BACCAR CONTRACT IS HIGHLY
DESIRABLE EVEN IF NOT REQUIRED FOR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.
BASED ON RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIAL IN MINIS-
TRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AND OTHERS, WE FEEL THAT GOT IS BECOMING
INCREASINGLY AWARE OF TUNISIAN STAKE IN CENTER AND
THE DAMAGE BEING DONE TO TUNISIAN CAPABILITIES AND
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REPUTATION IN MARINE RESEARCH BY ACTIVITIES OF MME.

BACCAR. ANY ACTIONS WHICH HIGHLIGHT THIS FACT IN
TUNISIAN OFFICIAL EYES WOULD BE HELPFUL IN SMOOTHING
PROCESS OF SMI WITHDRAWAL FROM CENTER.
SEELYE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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